



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1 Airport Road
Glasgow, MT 59230

January 22, 2016

Environmental Quality Council
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Parks Division
Fisheries Division
Wildlife Division
Conservation & Education Division
Design & Construction Bureau
Commission Secretary
Regional Office Managers
Regional Supervisors
Director's staff
Legal Unit
Lands Unit
Law Enforcement Division
Responsive Management Unit
Montana State Library, Helena
Montana Audubon Council

Montana Wildlife Federation
LEG Services
State Historic Preservation Office
Governor's Office
MT Environmental Information Center
Richard Kerstein (FWP Commissioner)
Richard Stuker (FWP Commissioner)
BLM Malta Field Office
USFWS Bowdoin NWR
Phillips County Commissioners
Phillips County NRCS
Phillips County Grazing District
DNRC-NE Land Office
John and Patricia Wilke
Little Big Warm LLC
Milk River Land and Cattle
Lyle and Joann Davis

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has developed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the proposed action of purchasing a conservation easement on 1,760 acres from Wetlands America Trust Inc., a division of Ducks Unlimited (DU). This property called Pintail Flat is located in a single parcel approximately 14 miles south of Dodson in south Phillips County.

The proposed easement would conserve and enhance wetland and grassland habitats, perpetuate agriculture as the principle use, and maintain public access to this land. This property is located in a state, regional, and national priority area for conservation of migratory and upland game birds and their habitats. This particular area of Phillips County provides habitat to a number of waterfowl species to include northern pintails and several grassland birds considered species of concern to include Sprague's pipit. A portion of the property is in sage grouse core area.

FWP would like to purchase the easement and implement the easement terms while maintaining the present use of the property as livestock grazing. A rest-rotation grazing system would be implemented to maintain and improve range and wildlife habitat on the property.

The EA is available at: <http://fwp.mt.gov> under public notices. You may request a hardcopy by calling 228-3700. The public comment period on the draft EA will extend through 5:00 pm, February 26, 2016. A public meeting will be held in Malta in the basement of the Phillips Co. library on February 16 at 3:00 PM. Written comments can be mailed to Pintail Flat EA Comments, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1 Airport Rd, Glasgow, MT 59230 or emailed to katsmith@mt.gov. If you have any further questions

regarding this proposal, please call the Region 6 FWP office at 228-3700. Thank you very much for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark D. Sullivan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mark Sullivan
Region 6 Supervisor